INFORMATION REPORT

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Structure and Personalities in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

I. Main Department II (Capitalistic Countries).

The chief of this department was Guenther Kohrt. Attached to this main department was a Department for International Organizations, headed by Richard Gyptner.

Press Department.

The chief of this department was Wilhelm Meissner. This Main Department consisted of the Department for Press Evaluation (Presseauswertung) and the Department for Foreign Propaganda (Auslandspropaganda).

wetter and two Hauptreferenten. Priority was given to the evaluating of ADN. Foreign newspapers, especially from the West, were read only by the Translation Department, who passed extracts on to the Press Department. The Press Department then prepared a daily press summary (Pressespiegel) which was then passed on to the Main Department and Department heads of the Foreign Ministry, with a classification of "streng vertraulich". It was impossible to read original copies of Western newspapers. The Department for Press Evaluation had close contacts with the Press Department of the Central Committee of the SED and also with the accredited foreign correspondents in East Berlin, who were mostly from Soviet-Bloc newspapers. As for Western newspapers, only the Communist papers were represented with the exception of Le Monde and the Berlingske Tidende.

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SECRET 25X1 25X1 of this department was the producing of a bulletin for the West, which was passed for dissemination to the branch offices (Aussenstelle) of the Chamber for Foreign Trade, to sympathetic journalists in capitalistic countries, and to the Communist Parties of the Western countries; this bulletin allegedly was to advertise East Germany to foreign countries. Both Gerhard Eisler and Goeres (fnu) of the International Relations Department of the Ministry for Culture were called in to assist on this bulletin. Further duties of this department included: producing advertising material for foreign exhibitions; and extending invitations to foreign journalists. There had been visits by groups of journ-25X1 each case, however, the invitations were passed through the Communist Party of the country concerned, who favored the "sympathetic bourgeoisie" (sympathisierende "Buergerliche"). The Personnel (Cadre) Department was headed by Voss (fnu)1, who replaced Emil Mathmann in September 1954. Voss formerly worked in the Personnel (Cadre) Department of the Ministry of the Interior. Details on the Work of the Ministry. The main sphere of interest is the concern over international recognition of East Germany. The possibility of recognition of the USSR by West Germany is regarded with mixed feelings since, in general, possible discussions between Bonn and Moscow via Pankow are feared. The Foreign Ministry has no contact whatsoever with Western diplomats. Functionaries of the oreign Ministry have no possibility of examining the classified oviet reports (including those reports of the Soviet High Commission) dealing with the West
The Press Department of the Foreign Ministry has almost no direct con-25X1 tact with Sodet Ambassador Pushkin. All dealings are handled via the Press and Radio Department of the Central Committee of the SED. Nothing was known regarding the means of contact between the other Main Departments of the Foreign Ministry and the Central Committee or the Soviets. 6. Chose collaboration exists with the foreign-trade organizations, the Ministry for Foreign Trade, the various DIAs, and the Chamber for Foreign Trade. There is decided interest in improving relations with Arabic-speaking countries (arabische Laender). 25X1 general complaint was that there were too few reliable men for such The positions in Western countries. Emigrants from the West and other persons with Western contacts are suspect; and reliable Party members have not enough experience in dealing with the West. 25X1 SECRET C 25X1